

Man, 80, died on a holiday

● A PENSIONER who was taken ill in America died from an industrial disease.

An inquest heard Herbert Filtness, 80, was on a cruise with his wife Barbara when he fell ill on October 9. The ship's doctors recommended he was taken to hospital in Rhode Island, where Mr Filtness, of Hassenbrook Road, Stanford-le-Hope, died two days later.

A later post-mortem at Basildon Hospital found the cause of death to be mesothelioma, an industrial disease contracted by exposure to asbestos. Mr Filtness may have been exposed to it when he was labourer for Thames Board Mills or plant operator for the Anglia Water Board, the inquest was told.

Bulletin to aid travellers

● TRAVELLERS facing eviction from Dale Farm, in Crays Hill, have launched an international bulletin to raise awareness about their campaign to stay at the site.

The quarterly document has been published for the 86 families hoping to stay at the illegal site with the help of students at the Essex Human Rights Clinic, part of Essex University at Colchester.

In the first issue it gives a history of the Irish travellers' planning battle with Basildon Council.